



2111 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 700, Arlington, VA 22201 • www.vef.gov • Phone 703-351-5053 • Fax 703-351-1423

Lynne A. McNamara, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Effective Fall 2010

Board of Directors

Stephen F. Maxner, Ph.D.
Chairman
Director, Vietnam Center
Texas Tech University

Hillary Rodham Clinton
U.S. Secretary of State

Elizabeth Dugan
Chair, VEF Finance Committee

Arne Duncan
U.S. Secretary of Education

David Duong
CEO, California Waste Solutions

Christopher J. Fussner
Owner, Founder
Trans Technology Pte Ltd.

Timothy F. Geithner
U.S. Secretary of Treasury

Marjorie Margolies
President
Women's Campaign International

Joseph R. Pitts
U.S. Congressman

Loretta Sanchez
U.S. Congresswoman

David Vitter
U.S. Senator

Financial Support Terms
for a VEF Fellowship recipient
admitted to a U.S. Graduate School

The Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) is an independent Federal agency of the U.S. Government, which was created to strengthen the relationship between the United States and Vietnam through educational exchange. Through the VEF Fellowship program, VEF brings the best Vietnamese scholars to top U.S. graduate schools and thus assists in training a new generation of scientists, educators and professionals for Vietnam in the disciplines of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine.

The VEF Fellowship program expects that a U.S. doctoral degree will take as long as 5 years to complete, and a master's degree will take up to 2 years to complete. The duration of the VEF Fellowship for individual students is based on this estimation. Most VEF Fellows are admitted to doctoral programs.

As a U.S. Federal Government agency, VEF serves as the visa sponsor throughout the Fellow's academic program in the United States. The VEF Fellows participate in the Fellowship program on J-1 Exchange Visitor visas. As per the regulations governing the Exchange Visitor Program, all Fellows are subject to the two-year home-country physical residence requirement after the completion of their degrees. VEF works closely with the American Embassy in Vietnam to ensure that the Fellow will be able to enter the United States, prior to the start of the academic year.

If an applicant is qualified for, and offered, a VEF Fellowship, **the financial parameters of the VEF Fellowship as of Fall 2010 are described below.** For the VEF Fellow to accept admission to a particular university, the University must provide a written statement to the Fellow and VEF, which states acceptance of the VEF financial support terms and which delineates the financial support provided by the University throughout the degree program.

1. Fellowship Grant to the University (Years 1 and 2). During the Fellow's first two years at the U.S. University (Years 1 and 2), VEF provides an annual grant of \$27,000 paid directly to the University to help support each VEF Fellow. This grant amount is in lieu of the following, which must be covered each year by the University: all required deposits; school orientation fees; required tuition and fees for the academic year and summer session; medical and health insurance required of an international student for the academic year and summer session; required books and educational equipment; and stipends for 12 calendar months that would be at least the

minimum amount that is provided to other graduate students in the Fellow's department. If there is a financial shortfall, the U.S. University is expected to provide additional funds to supplement the VEF annual grant of \$27,000 for the first two years because the Fellow has no other resources.

2. Full Support by the University (Year 3 and beyond). From the third year forward, the University must provide full financial support for the Fellow, which is typically provided through a graduate assistantship. VEF does not provide any grant directly to the University after the Fellow's second year of graduate study. The Fellow is expected to meet the University's requirements to receive a graduate assistantship no later than the 3rd year.

3. Professional Development Grant to the Fellow. Each Fellow, who is enrolled full-time and not involved in Academic Training (an off-campus employment benefit of the J-1 visa status), receives \$1,000 per year as a Professional Development Grant (PDG). Specifically, a master's degree student receives up to two years of PDG and a doctoral student receives up to 5 years of PDG. Use of these funds is limited to professional development purposes in the Fellow's program of study, defined as follows: conference attendance and/or presentations; training workshops or seminars; books, journals, and publications; computer hardware or software; professional memberships or subscriptions; travel to Vietnam to work, teach, or do research; courses to improve English speaking, listening, reading, or writing; equipment needed to do research for one's thesis or dissertation; hiring a statistician; and hiring an English language expert to edit one's thesis, dissertation, or publishable article. PDG funds cannot be used for non-professional purposes, such as living expenses, costs for dependents, travel for pleasure, medical or health expenses, and entertainment. All tangible items purchased through the PDG funds are the property of the Fellow.

4. Payment of VEF funds to the University. The University grant (\$27,000 for each Fellow for each of the first two years) and the annual PDG (\$1,000 for each Fellow for each year) to be provided to each Fellow (as described above) will be electronically transferred from VEF to the University at the beginning of the academic year. No administrative fees can be deducted by the University for administering or handling the VEF monies. The University makes all financial arrangements for distribution and application of monies. The first stipend payment must be made within the first month of arrival of the VEF Fellow on campus and every month thereafter. Ideally, the University should make arrangements to make a partial payment of the stipend upon the Fellow's arrival on campus as the Fellow has no other source of funds. Regardless of any unforeseen delays on the part of the University or VEF in processing the grant, the first and all subsequent stipend payments to the Fellow must be made in a timely fashion.

5. Other Financial Support. VEF will also pay for the following:

- a. All costs related to pre-academic English language training if required by the University. English as a Second Language (ESL) courses must be conducted at the University during the summer prior to the first fall term graduate program. A specific performance level in the ESL training cannot be a condition of admission to the University. VEF does not fund ESL at any other time or at any other location.
- b. All costs related to the required Pre-Departure Orientation training conducted in Vietnam by VEF.
- c. Visa application fee (if any).
- d. Physical exam and inoculations required by the University prior to departure to the United States.
- e. Costs of economy-class airfare from Vietnam to the primary airport nearest the University and return economy-class airfare to Vietnam at the completion of the Fellow's academic program.
- f. A modest settling-in allowance of \$500 given directly to the Fellow during the VEF Pre-Departure Orientation in Vietnam to help cover personal incidental expenses in the United States.

6. Annual VEF Fellows and Scholars Conference. To facilitate interaction among VEF Fellows and Visiting Scholars and between Fellows and the U.S. and Vietnamese scientific community, VEF organizes an Annual Conference in the United States on January 3-5. During the Fellowship period, VEF will pay for the costs for the Fellow to attend the Conference, including round-trip economy-class airfare from the Fellow's home of record in the United States, lodging, and a fixed allowance toward expenses.

For questions, please contact:

- Ms. Sandarshi Gunawardena, VEF Senior Program Officer in the VEF U.S. Headquarters, at 703-351-5053 (within the United States) or 001-703-351-5053 (from outside of the United States).

* * * * *